



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.3379(CEA.6/7)
19 October 2011

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Bávaro, Dominican Republic

16-18 November 2011

REPORT OF THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK*

* This report was prepared by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, coordinating country of the Knowledge Transfer Network.

Name of working group and coordinator	Knowledge Transfer Network - Mexico - INEGI
Member countries and other participants	<p>States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.</p> <p>Associate members: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the former Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.</p>
Results of the 2009-2011 programme of work: summary of the results and outputs to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	<p>The Knowledge Transfer Network contributes to progress in statistical activities by promoting training activities for staff collaborating within national statistical systems, regional structures and multilateral organizations. The Network also coordinates the activities of the network of experts, training centres and existing national programmes, and opens up communications channels among members of the Network.</p> <p>Network activities are a substantive element of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. At its fifth meeting in Bogota from 10 to 13 August 2009, the Conference approved the 2009-2011 training programme of the Knowledge Transfer Network and the new composition of the Council of the Network: Dominican Republic (current Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference), Brazil, Colombia, Mexico (as secretariat), Spain and the World Bank (as donor to ensure the sustainability of the Network's activities).</p> <p>In late 2010 and during 2011, to support the operation of the Knowledge Transfer Network, an independent contractor has been working on the Network project, hired by INEGI and the World Bank (which approved the donation of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building TF093236 "Regional Network of National Systems Project").</p> <p>The status of implementation of the 2009-2011 programme of work approved at the fifth meeting of the Conference is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation and dissemination of the Network's operating rules 2. Training activities relating to official statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information has been compiled and updated on 98 training activities from the 2009-2010 biennium and 84 activities from the 2011-2012 biennium (training on offer): courses, seminars, workshops and other activities, including those undertaken by other working groups of the Conference. • All training activities have been assembled and published – listed chronologically, by topic or by national statistical office. • The training on offer has increased by more than 150% over the past six months.

3. Identification of training needs (technical and cross-cutting issues)

- An annual questionnaire has been conducted to identify needs for training and human resource development in the member countries of the Conference and the working groups.
- A regional assessment has been completed.
- The main issues highlighted by the assessment so far are (i) environmental statistics; (ii) specific techniques for electronic data dissemination and (iii) statistics on science, technology and the information society.
- Activities will be organized in 2011 and 2012 to address the training needs in these priority areas.

4. Preparation of the programme of work for the 2009-2011 biennium

5. Launch of the Network's new Internet portal in Spanish, comprising:

- New resources and content; these include a new section entitled "Acervo" [Resource centre], which brings together information on knowledge transfer activities undertaken in the region. It contains details of courses, seminars and workshops (for further details and the programme for each activity, see [online, in Spanish only] http://ceacepal-rtc.org/rtc_sitio/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=22).
- New image.
- Navigation that is faster and more dynamic, flexible and user-friendly.
- Interactivity, making it possible for Network members to provide rapid feedback.
- The Red *social RTC*. This interactive online platform will facilitate communication and help Network members share information, experiences and good practice, and transfer knowledge. Over the coming months, Network members will be encouraged to use it.
- Communication strategy: Network publicity campaign. New content has been developed, including messages and graphics in Spanish, English and French.
- From 10 September 2010 to date, the site was visited over 54,120 times (see the new Network page [online] <http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org>).

6. Publication of distance-learning courses offered by various institutions

Eleven courses were on offer in 2011:

Mexico - National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)	1
Spain – National Institute of Statistics (INE) and Economic and Technological Development Distance Learning Centre (CEDDET)	5
Colombia – Andean Centre for Higher Studies (CANDANE)	4
Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)	1

The working group is collaborating with national statistical offices and with international organizations such as the World Bank to collect more information on distance-learning training activities so as to increase those available through the Network.

The proposal put forward with regard to the World Bank's Virtual Statistical System (VSS), which has been approved by that organization, is as follows: (i) provide the VSS with Network training activities that enhance the participation of the Latin American region, and (ii) incorporate into the Network those VSS training activities that address the priority issues identified by the assessment.

We will therefore promote (on the English-language page during an initial phase) training activities that meet the needs of the Latin American region. The intention is to translate these activities into Spanish during the second phase.

7. Network of experts and training centres

- There are 138 Network specialists (staff, academics and others with statistical skills and experience).
- The Network has helped the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Panama, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Honduras and the National Statistical Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic find experts for international consultancies.
- A total of 18 training centres are registered with the Network.
- The website contains a directory of national statistical offices and links to the members.

8. Launch of the Network's Internet portal in English

The webpage and its interactivity were programmed, the general content was translated, and its design and functionality developed. It will be launched during the last quarter of 2011.

- Network operating rules in English: This document has been translated and it will be made available during the last quarter of 2011.

This will make it easier for the English-speaking countries to participate in the working groups' activities.

9. Presentations and reports on Network outputs and progress

- In its capacity as secretariat, INEGI presented the documents that had been prepared at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (Havana, 6-8 April 2011).
 - Negotiations were completed with the World Bank to engage consultancy services for the Network basic coordination unit for the period December 2010 to June 2012.
 - The report on outputs and progress was submitted to the World Bank, in order to negotiate an extension of donation TF093236 to 30 June 2012; now that the extension has been granted, the goals for 2012-2013 can be consolidated.
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10. Donation and resource management with the World Bank

- The Network's resources are being efficiently handled, targeting the areas of greatest interest to the members and meeting their principal needs, through:
- (a) Support for the activities of the working groups of the Conference in the area of knowledge transfer**
 - (i) Seminar/workshop on environmental statistics
Place and date: Santo Domingo, 15 November 2011
 - (ii) Workshop on using census data for migratory analysis
Place and date: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 17-19 October 2011

(b) Basic coordination unit of the Network

The consultancy services for communication and international relations will be retained. Furthermore:

- It will be suggested to the World Bank that a consultant be hired with skills and experience in information technology and communication, and that professional translation services be engaged.
- The consultants who will be joining the basic operational unit of the Network have already been selected and terms of reference and a programme of work have been drawn up for the period between 2011 and June 2012.

Conclusions

INEGI has formally incorporated the activities of the working group into the duties of its departments, areas or specific directorates and has assigned Network coordination and support roles to its staff. However, to boost the basic coordination unit, the aforementioned consultancy services will be engaged.

With regard to country participation, Network members have attended more regularly and demonstrated more commitment, but this remains inadequate and uneven. Countries' dedication and their contribution to the working group's goals must be redoubled during the period 2012-2013.

Greater participation from the countries in the training activities has been evident in the seminars, workshops and courses they have organized, financed by a donor or an international organization. In general, these meetings represent useful opportunities for sharing experiences and mutual learning. Discussion papers were provided, and in many cases, reports were drafted containing conclusions and recommendations on the issue at hand. However, countries sometimes fail to supply copies of the working documents, presentations and other information it would be very useful to retain in the Network resource centre.

Given that countries tend not to use virtual tools for working and communicating, the 2012-2013 programme of work will include heightening awareness of the Network portal to increase members' participation in the virtual platforms *Red social RTC* and *RTC_A DISTANCIA*. These can be used as collaborative sites for conducting remote meetings and workshops and for members of the Conference to communicate with one another.

It is vital that the working groups share their training activities and all related information with the Network.

Programme of work 2012-2013

1. Description of the objectives	General objective		
	<p>Promote the coordination of the training activities of all the working groups of the Conference through the Network and strengthen the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and disseminate official statistics by fostering the transfer of the most accurate information possible.</p>		
	Specific objectives		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the coordination of training programmes on official statistics run by national and international organizations in the region, opening up information and communication channels that contribute to the optimal use of the resources available. • Coordinate existing national centres and programmes by opening up information and communication channels enabling optimal use of the resources available and helping to remedy the shortage of training in the region. • Prioritize activities aimed at building an online learning platform and promoting the sharing of information, documentation and good practice in the region. • Support the levelling of statistical and human resources development to achieve the strategic objectives of each of the national statistical offices. 		
2. Main activities proposed for the period 2012-2013, including the countries and organizations in charge and likely dates of execution	<table> <tr> <th data-bbox="527 1060 1031 1123">Activities</th><th data-bbox="1031 1060 1430 1123">In charge</th></tr> </table>	Activities	In charge
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- The content or results of every training activity shall become part of the resource centre and be made available to the international statistical community through the Network, to prevent the loss of resources and to transfer knowledge in the form of presentations, videos, recordings, proceedings, reports and other multimedia content.
 - Sources of funding shall be identified so that courses can be organized for the region and so as to arrange with national statistical offices and international organizations for courses, workshops, seminars and other training activities to be delivered in English, French or both.
 - The use of simultaneous interpreting during training activities shall be promoted and information shared via the Network.

Identify the training needs of Network members via an electronic online questionnaire, in order to:

- Maximize the accuracy of the needs assessment.
- Meet training needs by organizing activities that build knowledge and skills needed by the members of the Network.

Member countries of the Conference – Specialized agencies – National statistical offices – Other international organizations that are members of the Network

Increase the likelihood that training activities on offer will meet needs

Consultant(s)

On the basis of the needs assessment, plans, programmes and new training activities shall be designed that instil and develop the knowledge and skills needed by the members of the Network, thereby helping them to achieve their goals.

Provide Network members with training options on managing the new portal and the *RTC_A DISTANCIA* environment

Consultant(s)

- Devise tutorials.
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- Prepare manuals and quick guides so that each member country can manage its own information on the portal and *RTC_A DISTANCIA*.

Prepare the campaign to publicize the Network page (2012-2013) Consultant(s)

Set up automatic notifications Consultant(s)

These will allow the Network to communicate instantaneously with all its members.

Manage the presence of the Network project on social networking sites Consultant(s)

Set up the Network labour exchange Consultant(s)

In support of INE of Honduras, the public notice for the procurement of an international consultant in digital mapping was published on the portal on 17 May 2011.

Assemble the Council of the Network INEGI of Mexico in its capacity as secretariat – Consultant(s)

A meeting via videoconference of the Council of the Network shall be convened, to strengthen the general duties of the members of the Council, communicate the contributions made, present the report on the outputs and progress during the period 2009-2011 and seek its support for consolidating the goals and strategy for 2012-2013.

Develop the *RTC_A DISTANCIA* training platform and boost the supply of training activities and other components needed by Network members Consultant(s)

Delegate knowledge transfer to hub countries

The following countries have been proposed as hubs:

- Canada, the United States or the Dominican Republic for the English-speaking and French-speaking Caribbean.
- Colombia for the Andean region.
- Mexico for Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.
- Chile for the Southern Cone.

National statistical offices – Other international organizations that are members of the Network in the proposed countries

Develop new technological ideas that will allow national statistical offices to manage their own information within the Network, share lectures on remarkable statistics, publications, and other elements relating to knowledge transfer that may be shared on the Network.

Consultant(s)

Manage funds to meet the Network's needs during 2012-2014

The support and participation of all members of the Conference is needed on this point.

The resources needed to carry out the Network's activities during the period June 2012 to June 2014 shall be evaluated. Support and resources shall be sought for knowledge transfer activities (such as courses, seminars and workshops) in the member countries of the Conference from international organizations, donor countries, international financial institutions and other funds.

Include the Network in the strategic plan 2005-2015 of the Conference, as one of the key lines of action

Chair of the Executive Committee

On 12 July 2011, the Chair of the Executive Committee was asked to update the plan, to incorporate into strategic goal 2 the specific objective of promoting coordination of the training activities of the working groups of the Conference, via the Knowledge Transfer Network.
